

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An ultrasonic probe comprising ~~for transmitting a rotation of a motor, which is placed inside a grip portion in order to swing an ultrasonic transducer placed inside a tip portion of a longitudinal insertion portion, to said ultrasonic transducer, including:~~

a motor positioned inside a grip portion, wherein the motor is adapted to transmit rotation to an ultrasonic transducer to swing the ultrasonic transducer, further wherein the ultrasonic transducer is positioned within a tip portion of a longitudinal insertion portion;

a rotation shaft linked to a rotation shaft of said motor so that a tip is extended inside the tip portion of said insertion portion;

a first pulley attached to said tip of said rotation shaft;

a second pulley attached to a swinging shaft of said ultrasonic transducer;

a middle pulley placed between said first and second pulleys;

a wire laid between said first and second pulleys and said middle pulley; and

a sliding mechanism for supporting said middle pulley in such a manner that said middle pulley is slidable in a direction toward and away from said first pulley ~~along a minimum distance route therebetween to protect~~ reduce looseness of the wire before operation and the ~~position of said~~ middle pulley can be ~~fixed~~ positioned so that a distance between said middle pulley and said first pulley is kept constant during operation, and

said middle pulley is not movable in a longitudinal direction of said longitudinal insertion portion.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein said sliding mechanism includes:

a slider portion to which said middle pulley is attached and which can be slid in a direction orthogonal to a rotation direction of said first pulley along a slider guide portion formed at said tip portion; and

a screw for fixing said slider portion to said tip portion.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein said wire is made of a line material having both ends and has a block for fixing both of the ends of said line material, and said block is attached to said first pulley.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein said wire is confined within said tip portion.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): An ultrasonic probe comprising ~~for transmitting a rotation of a motor, which is placed inside a grip portion in order to swing an ultrasonic transducer placed inside a tip portion of a longitudinal insertion portion, to said ultrasonic transducer, including:~~

a motor positioned inside a grip portion, wherein the motor is adapted to transmit rotation to an ultrasonic transducer to swing the ultrasonic transducer, further wherein the ultrasonic transducer is positioned within a tip portion of a longitudinal insertion portion;

a rotation shaft having an axis of rotation linked to a rotation shaft of said motor so that a tip is extended inside the tip portion of said insertion portion;

a first pulley attached to said tip of said rotation shaft, wherein said pulley rotates about said axis of rotation of said rotation shaft;

a second pulley attached to a swinging shaft of said ultrasonic transducer, wherein the swinging shaft is formed substantially coaxially with the second pulley;

a middle pulley placed between said first and second pulleys;

a wire laid between said first and second pulleys and said middle pulley; and

a sliding mechanism for sliding said middle pulley in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis of the swinging shaft without moving said middle pulley in a longitudinal direction of said insertion portion so that said wire is not loosened.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): An ultrasonic probe comprising ~~for transmitting a rotation of a motor, which is placed inside a grip portion in order to swing an ultrasonic transducer placed inside a tip portion of a longitudinal insertion portion, to said ultrasonic transducer, including:~~

a motor positioned inside a grip portion, wherein the motor is adapted to transmit rotation to an ultrasonic transducer to swing the ultrasonic transducer, further wherein the ultrasonic transducer is positioned within a tip portion of a longitudinal insertion portion;

a rotation shaft having an axis of rotation linked to a rotation shaft of said motor so that a tip is extended inside the tip portion of said insertion portion;

a first pulley attached to said tip of said rotation shaft, wherein said pulley rotates about said axis of rotation of said rotation shaft;

a second pulley attached to a swinging shaft of said ultrasonic transducer, wherein the swinging shaft is formed substantially coaxially with the second pulley;

a middle pulley placed between said first and second pulleys;

a wire laid between said first and second pulleys and said middle pulley; and

a sliding mechanism for sliding said middle pulley in a direction parallel to the swinging shaft without moving said middle pulley in a longitudinal direction of said insertion portion to adjust tension of said wire.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein said middle pulley is slidable in a slide guide formed integrally in the tip portion.